MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : No.

Pakuthi staff in the Trivandrum Revenue Division.

226. *MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there are, in the *pakuthi* staff of the Trivandrum Revenue Division, persons with public examination qualification in English who have also passed the Revenue and Account Tests ;

(*b*) if so, their names and service and

(*c*) whether their preferential claims for promotion have been considered ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Yes.

		Service.	
		Years.	*Months.*
(*b*) 1. V. Velayudhan Pillai (Accountant, Neyyattinkara Taluk)	...	11	8
2. V. Titus, (Kandukrishi Accountant)	...	3	3

(*c*) Their claims will be considered when suitable vacancies occur.

Import of tobacco.

227. *MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*) : Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement containing the following information :

(i) the quantity of tobacco imported into Travancore from Jaffna, Coimbatore and Tinnevelly during the last six years ;

(ii) the total quantity of snuff, cigars, cigarettes, beedies, and other kinds of tobacco of Indian manufacture, imported during these years and

(iii) the estimated amount of money sent out of the State on account of the purchase of these commodities in each of these years ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : A *statement containing the information is laid on the table.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*) : May I know, Sir, whether Government have investigated the possibility of cultivation of tobacco in Travancore and whether there is any place suitable for cultivation of tobacco in any part of Travancore ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Some time back the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries had been asked to conduct an experimental cultivation of tobacco on a small scale. Nothing further has been done in the matter.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*) : May I know whether there is any proposal on the part of Government to enhance the duty on tobacco at least temporarily ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : There is no definite idea just now.

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* *Vide* Appendix

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MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know what is the result of the experiment conducted by the Director of Agriculture?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The experiment has not actually been conducted.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): May I know whether any investigation was actually made anywhere in Travancore or was there only a proposal to make an experiment?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The Director of Agriculture was asked some time back to conduct an experimental cultivation. Nothing more was done, as far as I am aware.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): Are the Government in a position to say whether there is any possibility for cultivation of tobacco in Travancore?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The success or otherwise of the cultivation will depend upon the result of the experiment to be conducted.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): If the experiment proves successful, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of allowing people to cultivate tobacco?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): If the cultivation of tobacco is found to be successful in Travancore, the question of allowing people to cultivate tobacco will be considered, consistent with the revenue which the Government derive from that source.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know why nothing has been done in that direction?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): On that point, I am just now unable to give an answer.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know as to when it was that the Director of Agriculture was asked by Government to report about the facilities?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): He was asked sometime back, more than a year ago, I believe,

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the Government member whether the Government are going to allow cultivation of tobacco either at the instance of the Government or by private individuals?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That question has already been answered, Sir,

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): The member stated that it was more than a year since the matter was referred to the Director of Agriculture. May I know the approximate number of years during which the matter has been pending with the Excise Commissioner. I want to know, for how many years? Will it be less than 5 or 10 years? I wish to have an approximate idea.

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The question of taking up the cultivation of tobacco in Travancore was taken up sometime back. I cannot say definitely when. I do not think it was pending with the Excise Commissioner for an unnecessarily long period.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): After writing to the Director of Agriculture, may I now whether the Excise Commissioner ever sent a reminder on the matter?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It was not the Excise Commissioner who wrote to the Director of Agriculture. The Excise Commissioner wrote to Government and the Government to the Director of Agriculture.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know whether the Excise Commissioner ever wrote to Government stating that he had no information and asking that the matter should be expedited?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The Excise Commissioner is awaiting the orders of Government on the point.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): My question is whether he wrote to Government again.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No reminders have been sent on the matter.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know whether any report was called for from the Director of Agriculture?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I cannot say now whether Government have called for any report.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know the name of the place where the experiments are to be conducted by the Travancore Government?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That should be decided by the Director of Agriculture.

MR M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether there were any representations from the people of Tovala and Agastiswaram taluks requesting Government to permit them to cultivate tobacco?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I have no information on that.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member whether he is aware that there are suitable places near Aramboly for the cultivation of tobacco?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not in a position to say which place is suitable or which place is not suitable for the cultivation of tobacco. That must be decided by the Director of Agriculture.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to consider that question?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Government have already taken up the consideration of the question and they will continue to do so.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether a patrol party is appointed for the destruction of ganja and tobacco plants?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Of course, there is a patrol party for the destruction of ganja plants but not particularly for the destruction of tobacco, because it does not grow spontaneously.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether, in the instructions issued for the destruction of ganja, tobacco is included or not?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): There are no specific instructions for the destruction of tobacco plants, because they do not grow spontaneously in forests. If tobacco plants are seen anywhere, they will certainly be destroyed.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether instructions have been issued that ganja need alone be destroyed?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commisiioner*): Patrol parties are sent from time to time for the destruction of ganja plants alone. But if tobacco plants are seen anywhere in the forests the Excise officers will destroy them. But there is no specific instruction for the destruction of tobacco plants.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether there was any instance of the subordinates of the department destroying tobacco plants in the forests or anywhere in Travancore?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I have had no instance brought to my notice.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know the reason for preventing the cultivation of tobacco?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Government are deriving nearly Rs. 20 lakhs as revenue from tobacco; and the Tobacco Regulation also does not provide for the cultivation of tobacco.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know the reason why the provision in the Tobacco Regulation for the cultivation of tobacco is not amended?

PRESIDENT: You refer to the Regulation or the law?

MR. A.S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): The Excise Commissioner was saying that there is no provision under the law.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The Tobacco Regulation empowers the Government to frame rules for the cultivation of tobacco. If rules are framed, cultivation of tobacco can be permitted.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know when that Regulation was passed, how many years ago?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Several years back. I do not exactly remember the date.

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PRESIDENT: The time allotted for interpellation has lapsed. When questions were called, three of the Honourable members, whose questions had been put down for today, were absent, namely, Messrs S.J. Nair—I hope he had no accident today (*Laughter*)—Mr. Abraham and Mr. Thiraviam Nadar. I think, ordinarily, their questions will lapse. However, I have no objection to these questions being repeated in the agenda for tomorrow.

Appendix

[*Vide* Question No. 227.]

STATEMENT RE : IMPORT OF TOBACCO.

1. Quantity of tobacco imported during the last 6 years:—

	1103 cds.	1104 cds.	1105 cds.	1106 cds.	1107 cds.	1108 cds.
Jaffna .	4,756	3,866	4,495	4,542	3,240	2,839
Coimbatore .	14,521	14,692	13,710	13,299	14,064	14,550
Tinnevelly .	2,249	2,163	2,067	1,924	1,861	1,841

2. Quantity of snuff, cigars, cigarettes, beedies and other kinds of tobacco of Indian manufacture imported during the last 6 years.

	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108
Snuff (bottles) .	51,584	52,175	53,860	52,469	66,999	73,218
Cigars (Lbs.) .	44,801	51,018	48,747	44,709	46,759	32,144
Cigarettes (Lbs) .	48,501	59,109	52,834	34,730	35,059	40,273
Beedies (Lbs.) .	34,603	35,197	33,645	34,826	27,440	28,839
Other kinds of Indian manufactured tobacco	973	635	2,497	4,265	3,318	1,622

3. Value of these commodities as declared in the Customs Houses for the last 6 years.

1103 Rs.	1104 Rs.	1105 Rs.	1106 Rs.	1107 Rs.	1108 Rs.
54,91,181	56,08,007	57,62,941	54,27,358	53,18,234	56,91,082

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